

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPT. OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES OFFICE OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

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Reply to: All Local Agencies Memorandum No-07-04

DATE: FEBRUARY 8, 2007
TO: X-LA WIC Coordinators
X-Satellites
FROM: Kathleen Wayne *KW*
State WIC Director
SUBJECT: Change of Infant Formula Contractor

INFORMATION- X
Policy-
Action- X
Routine (hard copy only) - X
Urgent (fax and hard copy)-

As of October 1, 2007, Ross Laboratories will be the new Alaska WIC State Agency infant formula rebate contractor. The State of Alaska participates in a consortium of twenty-two states agencies that combine infant formula purchasing contracts together to increase their rebate fees and this group is called Western States Consortium Alliance or WSCA. The current WSCA contract with Mead Johnson Nutritionals ends September 30, 2007.

We will strive to make this transition go as smoothly as possible, although it presents some significant challenges. Among them:

- Create the least impact on client services
- Data system changes to food packages and reports for rebate and billing
- Updates to the Policy and Procedure Manual, Vendor Manual, forms, client and vendor education, training resources, and outreach materials
- Resource material printing and distribution to LA, vendors, clients, referral agencies, physicians, and health care providers
- Amend the current MOV contract or secure a new contractor

The logistics of switching to a new WSCA formula provider are daunting; however, please know that we are carefully planning the change and welcome your suggestions for the transition. We recognize the need to inform and educate clients, vendors, physicians, and health care providers about the change well in advance. We will share information and specific details with you as soon as possible.

One thing we do know about the new Ross contract is that our rebates will be lower and Ross will not provide sample formulas. The State WIC Agency plans to purchase sample formula for those LAs that need it. We will carefully evaluate the need and our priorities.

If you have ideas of how we can make the transition as seamless as possible, please let us know. We will discuss the details of our plan at our March 8th teleconference.